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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND
LIMITED GOVERNMENT

CRIME AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE OF COUNTERTERRORISM & INTELLIGENCE

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Jo Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

I write to express my grave concern about what appears to be a concerted effort by you to delay and even prevent the release of the Jeffrey Epstein Files in their entirety – potentially at the direction of the sitting President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

On February 27, 2025, to much fanfare, the Department of Justice under your leadership released a trove of already-public documents related to the Jeffrey Epstein case titled *The Epstein Files: Phase 1*. This document dump, which was redacted ostensibly to “protect victims,” was sold to the American people as a fulfillment of President Trump’s promise of government transparency. It was rightly met, however, with widespread ridicule from across the political spectrum as a ham-handed attempt to gaslight the American people.¹

Shortly after the underwhelming ‘Phase 1’ release, you sent a letter to FBI Director Kash Patel attempting to pin blame on the FBI’s New York field office for the missing material.² In that letter, also dated February 27, 2025, you demanded that the FBI deliver, within 24 hours, “the full and complete Epstein files... including all records, documents, audio and video recordings, and materials related to Jeffrey Epstein and his clients, regardless of how such information was obtained.” You went on to clearly state that, “[t]here will be no withholdings or limitations to my or your access.” You further demanded a “comprehensive report” from the FBI Director “within

¹ Michael Kosnar, Sarah Fitzpatrick and Rich Schapiro, *Hyped release of 'Epstein Files' sparks anger and disappointment on right*, MSNBC (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/hyped-release-epstein-files-sparks-anger-disappointment-right-rcna194087>.

² Letter from Pam Bondi, U.S. Att’y Gen., to Kash Patel, Dir., FBI (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1391331/dl?inline>.

14 days.” Director Patel subsequently indicated his intent to comply with your request in a post on X: “There will be no cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned.”

It is now 74 days past the issuance of both your 24-hour demand and 14-day deadline for a comprehensive report, yet you have provided no additional materials nor an explanation for the delay. Reporting from March 21, 2025, indicates that the FBI field office in New York, presumably at your direction, delayed other investigations in order to work around the clock to review and redact information contained in the Epstein Files for release.³ Although you stated on May 8, 2025, that “[t]here are thousands of videos of Epstein with children or child porn,” which would require redaction to protect the victims’ identities, it simply cannot take this long for dozens of agents working around the clock to make the necessary redactions.

Further, extensive reporting has revealed that President Donald Trump had a lengthy and close relationship with both Jeffrey Epstein and Epstein’s co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell, including being named in Jeffrey Epstein’s flight logs as having flown on Epstein’s private jet at least seven times between 1993 and 1997.⁴ In 2002, President Trump was quoted as saying, “I’ve known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy... He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.”⁵ Moreover, Epstein’s personal address book, leaked in 2009 by an Epstein employee, contained 14 phone numbers for President Trump, his wife, Melania, and members of his staff.⁶

The convergence of your unexplained delay in releasing the Epstein Files, the reporting nearly two months ago that numerous FBI agents were working overtime to redact the materials, President Trump’s well-documented affiliation with Epstein, and his view that the Department of Justice is his personal law firm raises serious questions about whether President Trump has intervened to prevent the public release of the Epstein Files in order to hide his own embarrassing and potentially criminal conduct.

As a former 10-year DOJ prosecutor, I remind you that, as Attorney General, your oath of office requires you to represent the United States’ interest without fear or favor, not President Trump’s personal interest. That obligation to the American people requires the immediate release in their entirety of the Epstein Files in your possession, subject to appropriate redactions related to

³ Noah Shachtman, “*Ludicrous*” Situation: Jeffrey Epstein Case Redaction Takes Over FBI’s New York Office, VANITY FAIR (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/story/epstein-case-review-fbis-new-york?srltid=AfmBOopvZmTCAumRLsd3zAiLazmXBmvZmu3Exj7ak2yiL9jsKex1B6-d>.

⁴ Ben Wieder, *Maxwell case logs show how frequently Trump flew on Epstein jets; Bill Clinton, too*, MIAMI HERALD (Dec. 21, 2021), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/crime/article256740662.html>.

⁵ David A. Fahrenthold, Beth Reinhard and Kimberly Kindy, *Trump called Epstein a ‘terrific guy’ who enjoyed ‘younger’ women before denying relationship with him*, WASH POST (Jul. 8, 2019), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-called-epstein-a-terrific-guy-before-denying-relationship-with-him/2019/07/08/a01e0f00-a1be-11e9-bd56-eac6bb02d01d_story.html.

⁶ *Id.*

victims and minors. To be clear, there is no proper basis to redact the name, identify, or likeness of President Trump.

If you have been directed to redact instances of President Trump's name or likeness that are included in the Epstein Files, then your oath of office and your commitment to transparency requires you to inform the American people of that directive.

As part of Congress' oversight authority provided by the Constitution of the United States, I request that you respond, in writing, to the following questions no later than June 2, 2025:

- 1) Are you or the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in possession of all of the Epstein Files in the FBI's custody and control?
- 2) Have the necessary redactions of victims' identities and likenesses been completed? If not, why not?
- 3) Has the name, identity or likeness of President Donald Trump been redacted? If so, why?
- 4) Have you, OAG, or any other member of the DOJ been contacted by President Trump, anyone working in the White House, or another agent of President Trump's about the Epstein Files?
 - a) If so, did they request that you or your staff prevent the release of the Epstein Files?
 - b) Did they request that you redact the name, identity or likeness of President Trump from the Epstein Files prepared to be released publicly pursuant to your previous promise?
- 5) If not, why haven't you released the Epstein Files as you promised to do in February?
- 6) If you do still intend to release the Epstein Files, please provide a detailed timeline of your plan to do so.

I look forward to your response to this matter of intense public interest. Both Congress and the American people are eager for you to follow through on your promise of transparency about the Epstein Files.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Goldman', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

The Honorable Pam Bondi

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cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member